Volunteers with Y. Field School of Archaeology have nearly completed excavation of headquarters building at old Camp Floyd.

Foundations uncovered at Camp Floyd site

CEDAR VALLEY, Utah County — In their third year of excavation at Utah's old Camp Floyd, archaeologists have uncovered three foundations of about 200 buildings that once constituted the largest military base in the nation.

"There is so much here, it is going to take a long

Berge said the army employed local settlers for construction work, contracted with them to make adobe bricks at a penny each, and traded for vegetables.

When the army was ordered back to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in 1861 to prepare for the Civil War, it

"Our dig, which we hope to be able to continue for at least five more years, is adding significant details to the store of knowledge about this historical monument."

Workers this summer are excavating the headquarters building, a mess hall, a barracks and sev-

time to uncover it all," said Dr. Dale L. Berge, professor of archaeology and anthropology at Brigham Young University and director of the project.

The dig is sponsored by BYU's Field School of Archaeology, and about 25 volunteer student and professional archaeologists are assisting.

The mile-long camp, adjacent to the community of Fairfield in Cedar Valley, was established in 1858 by Col. Albert Sydney Johnston's 3,500-man army, which was sent to Utah to bring Mormon settlers under government control.

Federal officials changed their minds and canceled the army's mission shortly before the soldiers arrived in the territory, but they did not instruct the men to return. The army settled in at the site now being excavated, becoming a benefit to the pioneers instead of a threat.

The mile-long camp was established in 1858 by Col. Albert Sydney Johnston's 3,500-man army, which was sent to Utah to bring Mormon settlers under government control.

left $4 million in military surplus that was auctioned off for $100,000, Berge said.

The dig so far has uncovered only a tiny fraction of what remains of the camp, Berge said.

"Historians know the camp was here but they don't know much about its configuration," he said.

eral trash dumps.

So far, they have found such artifacts as a large key (on the doorstep of the headquarters building), cannon balls, pipe fragments, military buttons, percussion caps, shoulder boards, hair brushes, a tooth brush, cap devices, knife handles, bottles, pitchers, cups, plates and a Masonic emblem.

Berge said the emblem is particularly significant because the camp was the site of the first Masonic lodge in the territory.

He noted that one of the pipes is inscribed with a relief of President Fillmore and the dates 1850-1853. Some of the plates are identified as being manufactured in England in 1853.

Many of the artifacts will be put on public display later in the season at the Stage Coach Inn State Historical Monument in Fairfield, Berge said.